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FROM: BOMN

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 461, AUGUST 28, 7 PM

PRIORITY

SENT DEPARTMENT 461, REPEATED INFORMATION MOSCOW 58, LONDON 112, PARIS 133, BERLIN 133.

DEPTIS 476.

SOVIET AMBASSADOR SMIRNOV TOLD VAN SCHERPENBERG AUGUST 26 SOVIETS INTENDED PUBLISH TEXT KHRUSHCHEV LETTER ADENAUER BECAUSE OF ALLEGED GERMAN PRESS DISTORTIONS CONTENTS LETTER. SMIRNOV DENIED SOVIETS COMMITTED WAIT ADENAUER DECISION BEFORE PUBLICATION.

SCHERPENBERG IN TURN TOLD SMIRNOV IN VIEW SOVIET ACTION CHANCELLOR FORCED CONSIDER LATEST KHRUSHCHEV LETTER MERELY PROPAGANDA GESTURE AND WOULD HANDLE IT AS SUCH. (IN EFFORT FORESTALL SOVIET PUBLICATION NOTE SINCE VAN SCHERPENBERG UNDERSTOOD IT WOULD APPEAR AUGUST 29, KROLL DIRECTED GIVE SAME MESSAGE ZORIN. HOWEVER, BY TIME KROLL GOT TO SEE ZORIN, KHRUSHCHEV LETTER ALREADY CARRIED SOVIET PRESS.)

SMIRNOV TODAY WAS GIVEN CHANCELLOR'S REPLY TO KHRUSHCHEV, TEXT OF WHICH SHOWN PRESIDENT EISENHOWER YESTERDAY.

GERMANS INCLINED BELIEVE SOVIETS DECIDED PUBLISH LETTER IN EFFORT DISTRACT AS MUCH PUBLIC ATTENTION AS POSSIBLE FROM EISENHOWER VISIT.

HOWEVER, IF THAT IN FACT WAS PURPOSE, EFFORT FAILED COMPLETELY. MOSCOW REPORTS KHRUSHCHEV LETTER BURIED IN BACK PAGES

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-2- 461, AUGUST 28, 7 PM FROM BONN

TODAY'S GERMAN PRESS, SINCE FIRST PAGES DEVOTED ALMOST WHOLLY
EISENHOWER'S VISIT BONN.

INCIDENTALLY, SMIRNOV AND ZORIN BOTH DENIED KNOWLEDGE
POSSIBILITY SOVIET PUBLICATION KHRUSHCHEV MESSAGES TO DE
GAULLE AND MACMILLAN.

BRUCE

RJD

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